Wisconsin Emergency Operations Center

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Incident Report #3 – 06/19/18 4:00 pm

Recovery and assessment efforts are underway in northwestern Wisconsin, after historic flooding caused widespread damage to roads and properties across the region in recent days.

Governor Scott Walker has declared a state of emergency for Ashland, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, and Iron Counties. The governor has directed all state agencies to assist with the response to the flooding. He has also called members of the Wisconsin National Guard to active duty as Major General Don Dunbar, the state's adjutant general, deems necessary. The governor viewed flood damage in the region on Monday evening and met with local officials who are leading the response.

Property owners in the northwest region who experienced flood damage should contact 2-1-1 to file a report. Information gathered will be passed on to county officials, as they work to assess damage done in their areas.

Floodwaters in the region are beginning to recede, with many flood warnings being cancelled or allowed to expire. A flood warning does remain in effect for Burnett County through Thursday morning. No additional major rainfalls are currently forecast for the region.

Road closures remain in effect for multiple routes. Check 511wi.gov for the latest information on open or closed routes. The Department of Transportation is assessing the stability of roadways and bridges in the region. Motorists who encounter a route still covered by water should find an alternate route. Never drive through flooded areas.

The Department of Natural Resources says there are two dams that have failed with minimal impact, however there has been no damage to permanent homes and there were no evacuations associated with the failures. A more complete assessment of the Radigan Flowage and the Cranberry Creek Flowage dams will be done as the water recedes. Other dams and bridges in the region are being assessed.

Multiple state parks in the region are partially or fully closed because of flooding. Current park information is available on the DNR website at https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/findapark.html.

The State Emergency Operations Center remains elevated to Level 3 with Wisconsin Emergency Management, Wisconsin National Guard, Wisconsin State Patrol, Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the National Weather Service monitoring the situation. Other state agencies are monitoring. WEM Regional Offices continues to work with county emergency management agencies.

Additional information on the state's response to the flooding can be found at http://ready.wi.gov/flooding/NWWI2018.asp